

SURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH SNAG FREE BOX HINGE**ABSTRACT**

5 A surgical instrument includes a pair of
elongated members joined together by a box hinge.
The box hinge is formed of a slot in the first member
and a hinge portion in the second member. The hinge
portion of the second member is generally the same
10 width as that of the second member on either side of
the box hinge. The width of the first elongated
member is larger than the width of the second
elongated member at either end of the box hinge
portion. The first and second box hinge portions
15 have pivot points that mate to allow the hinge to
open and close. The pivot points may be
corresponding protrusions and depressions of any
preferred shape. The unique construction of the box
hinge creates a snag-free surface that allows for the
20 use of the instrument for tasks such as suturing
without the suturing thread snagging on the
instrument.